

## THE GULF COAST BREEZE.

Official Organ of Wakulla County, Florida.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

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Bismarck declares that one of the chief regrets of his old age is that he cannot ride a bicycle.

The Czar of Russia has bestowed six orders of St. Stanislas upon the gardeners of the Hotel de Ville, in recognition of their services when he was in Paris. As the tax for wearing a decoration in France is 100 francs a year, it is probable they will have to keep them in their pockets, where they would much rather have half of the tax.

A Toronto gentleman explains in a current review just "what the British possessions in America would do in the event of a prolonged war between England and the United States." It would be a valuable article, the Chicago Times-Herald confesses, were it not for one fact—in the event of a prolonged war between England and the United States there will be no British possessions in America.

The Cripple Creek scheme to run a monthly gold train conveying the product of the mines there to the United States mint is a brilliant one, offering a challenge to brigandage surpassing that of the most stretching Indian caravans ever looted by Barabbas. The output of the mines is now about \$1,000,000 a month, enough to justify a special train and a sufficient guard, thus advertising the district in a grandiose manner correspondent with its true deservings, says the New York World.

Says the Chicago Times-Herald: Gold production in the United States has increased with marvelous rapidity during the current year. The craze of the Klondike River regions should not obscure the great facts as they exist. Klondike's total yield for 1897 seems roughly, to be about \$8,000,000. That is a comfortable sum, but it is a mere nothing when compared with the wonderful output of the yellow metal in the United States. This gold from Alaska is all what is called placer, a Spanish word meaning an open space where pure or nearly pure gold is found. What may be the production of Alaska when machinery and mining engineers have done their work there is no telling. But it does not matter much—the human race can stand all the gold Alaska can produce for some time to come.

A pure food exhibit in Chicago furnishes occasion to the Times-Herald for reminding citizens of the efforts that are now being put forth by the Federal Department of Agriculture to investigate the character and extent of the adulteration of foods and drugs in the United States. This is one of the most important inquiries, remarks the Times-Herald, that can be inaugurated under government auspices, and is without doubt the most valuable service that the Agricultural Department can render to the people. Many of the States have enacted laws to prevent adulteration of food, but they are but indifferently enforced. The only effective way to stamp out adulteration is through Federal laws, and one of the objects of the present Federal inquiry is to ascertain to what extent the State laws on this subject have been enforced. Adulteration of food and drugs is carried on much more extensively than the people imagine. It is a question in which the public is deeply interested, because it affects health, morals and legitimate trade. The European governments are severe in their punishment of those who adulterate food and drugs, and their supervision of all food products is rigid. It was only recently that the people of Switzerland voted for an amendment to the constitution which will provide for government surveillance of all food products, and heavy penalties for adulterations. The department at Washington solicits the co-operation of all citizens of the United States in gathering positive data with reference to adulterations.

## LONDON HAS CONFLAGRATION

**BIGGEST FIRE OF THE CENTURY IN WORLD'S LARGEST CITY.**

**LOSS IS TWENTY-FIVE MILLIONS.**

Many Historic Localities Wiped Out or Badly Damaged—The Fire Raged For Four Hours.

The largest and most serious fire in a century raged in London Friday.

The fire broke out in a large block of buildings lying eastward of Aldersgate street and between that thoroughfare and Red Cross street just after 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

The flames were fanned by a strong wind and were fed by highly inflammable stocks of Christmas fancy goods and flimsy dress materials of all descriptions that filled every floor of the six-story buildings in the old street. Consequently the conflagration gained headway with surprising rapidity and was soon far beyond the possibility of being checked by the few engines which were early on the spot. For four and a half hours the flames had their own way and it was only after more than a hundred engines had worked an hour that the chief of the fire brigade sent out the signal that the fire was under control.

At 11 o'clock at night the fire was still the scene of great excitement. Fifty engines were playing upon the ruins, wagons were hurrying up coal and tons of water were pouring into the fiery debris.

The rescue of factory operatives by the firemen, the hurrying of hosts of clerks who were trying to save books and valuable papers from the fire and the rushing here and there of many employees, who were attempting to carry to places of safety costly merchandise or other valuables, added to the confusion. Then, again, the heat was so intense that several firemen were obliged to direct their operations under showers of water.

But in spite of the exertions of the firemen, the fire crept on steadily until Nicholl square, which is situated at the far end of Hansell street, was reached.

**Amount of the Losses.**

It is officially reported that 150 warehouses have been gutted. A later estimate of the damage done places the amount at nearly £5,000,000 sterling (\$25,000,000).

Nearly 300 telephone wires were cut, thus interrupting communication with many of the big provincial towns. The fire will cause an enormous advance in the price of ostrich feathers which rose 30 per cent. Two feather firms alone have lost £15,000 sterling (\$75,000).

**The Burned District.**

A later cable dispatch received Saturday morning says: A very large force of firemen and about twenty engines have been working at a high pressure all night. The district ravaged by the fire is bounded by Aldersgate street, Red Cross, Maiden Head court and Bradford avenue and includes the intermediate streets of Jewin, Hansell, Well and Edmund and Jewin Crescent and part of Australian avenue, Pauls alley, Cripple Gate church yard, Wood street square, Monkwell street, Nicholl square and Fore street.

**DECIDED AGAINST COUPER.**

Judges Pardee and Newman Had No Jurisdiction In the Case.

Major J. M. Couper, former assistant postmaster at Atlanta, lost his fight in the United States court for his place.

The fight was won by Major Smyth, not because the civil service laws did not protect Major Couper, but because Judges Pardee and Newman decided that a court of equity has no right to interfere in matters of the kind, and state that such questions and disputes must be decided by the civil service commission at Washington.

This means, of course, that the injunction for which Major Couper was fighting will not be granted and he will have to step out until the Washington headquarters pass upon his case. He still has a chance to win, for if the civil service commission decides that he is protected he will be reinstated and take up his old duties again.

**ROAD IN GOOD SHAPE.**

The Northeastern Railway Company Re-Elected Board of Directors.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Northeastern Railway Company was held at Charleston, S. C., Friday. The board of directors, consisting of B. F. Newcomer, H. B. Plant, H. Walters, C. O. Witte, Michael Jenkins and W. G. Elliott, was re-elected.

C. S. Gadsden was again chosen president and all minor officials were retained in their respective offices. The annual report was most satisfactory. The gross receipts of the year were \$532,528.39, and the operating expenses \$343,765.08.

## THANKSGIVING PROCLAMATION.

Issued by Georgia's Governor in Accordance With Time-Honored Custom.

The following Thanksgiving proclamation was issued by Governor Atkinson Wednesday:

Georgia has been greatly blessed during the past twelve months by the Giver of every good and perfect gift. She has been exempt from pestilence that walketh in darkness and the disease that wasteth at noonday. She has enjoyed the blessings of peace; floods have not inundated her fields nor drought cut off her crops. The harvest has been abundant in her borders. Progress has marked her footsteps and all her sons have been protected in their inalienable rights of life, liberty, prosperity and pursuits of happiness. Throughout her limits the smiles of a beneficent providence have brightly beamed, and all have been made to feel that their "lines have been cast in pleasant places."

Therefore, I, W. Y. Atkinson, governor of the state of Georgia, in accordance with the time-honored custom of our country and in conformity to the proclamation of the president of the United States and in special recognition of the generous gifts of our Heavenly Father, whose blessings have fallen upon all alike, hereby designate and set apart Thursday, November 25th, as a day of Thanksgiving and praise, and I earnestly recommend that all secular labor be laid aside on that day, and that the people around their family altars, as well as in their houses of prayer and public worship, return thanks to the Ruler of heaven and earth for the multitude of His tender mercies and richest blessings.

Given under my hand and seal of the executive department at the capitol in the city of Atlanta, this 17th day of November, 1897.

W. Y. ATKINSON, Governor.

## COLORED EX-CONGRESSMAN DEAD

John M. Langston Born a Slave and Rose To Distinction.

Ex-Congressman John M. Langston of Virginia, one of the prominent colored men of the country, died at Washington a day or two ago. He was 68 years of age, having been born a slave in 1829.

He was emancipated at the age of six, and was educated at Oberlin, where he graduated from the theological department in 1854. He afterward studied law, and practiced his profession until 1869, during which time he held several township offices in Ohio, being the first colored man elected to office in the United States by popular vote. In 1869 he was given a professorship of law at Howard University, remaining with that institution for seven years.

From 1877 to 1885 he was United States Minister and Consul General to Hayti. Upon his return to this country he became president of the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute at Petersburg, Va., where he remained for three years, when he was elected to the fifty-first congress, and was given his seat on contest. Since 1891 Langston had been prominent in politics, but did not hold office.

## GEORGIA DAIRYMEN

Hold Annual Meeting of Their Association in Macon.

The Dairymen's Association of Georgia met in Macon Wednesday morning with Chairman R. J. Redding presiding.

An address of welcome to the visiting delegates and the participants in the program was first delivered by Hon. Minter Wimberly, of Bibb, who welcomed them in behalf of the Central City.

The annual address of President R. J. Redding was an exhaustive review of the work of the association and was heard with close attention by the members and those who had gathered to hear the opening addresses.

## BIG MONEY INVOLVED

In Decision of Judge Pardee In Georgia Railroad Lease Case.

The argument in the Georgia railroad lease case was concluded at Atlanta last Tuesday by Mr. Henry Crawford, counsel for Thomas and Ryan.

It is now with Judge Don A. Pardee to say whether or not Thomas and Ryan are entitled to a half interest in the lease of the Georgia railroad or whether the entire lease belongs to the Louisville and Nashville railroad.

## WAS DREYFUS' BLACKMAILED?

The Accused Man Said To Be Victim of a Conspiracy.

Advices from Paris state that the allegation that Alfred Dreyfus, the former captain of French artillery, was falsely accused and convicted by a courtmartial of selling French military plans to the agents of a foreign government continues to be widely discussed throughout France.

It is claimed that the documents Dreyfus was charged with selling to Germany were never really sold to the agent of that country, but were prepared in imitation of Dreyfus's handwriting to blackmail him, his wife being a wealthy woman and he himself being in good circumstances.

## WALTER O'QUINN NOT GUILTY

**JURY WAS QUICK IN MAKING UP THEIR DECISION.**

**A MISTRIAL NARROWLY AVERTED.**

Jury Was Allowed To Visit Scene of Murder—Steinman and Simon Are Released On Their Own Bond.

The trial of Walter O'Quinn at Atlanta on the charge of having shot and killed Patrolman J. T. Ponder was concluded Wednesday morning and he has been found not guilty and released.

A sensation unlooked for occurred when the court was called to order, and for a time it looked as though Judge Candler would declare a mistrial; in fact, he so announced his intention, but after the strongest of arguments from the attorneys for the defense he decided to allow the trial to proceed.

The sensation came when immediately after court was called to order Judge Anderson, of the counsel for the prosecution, called the attention of Judge Candler to the fact that the jury had visited the scene of the murder before coming into court.

No one had spoken to any member of jury, he said, and the party had simply walked by the place and nothing had been said about the killing or the trial of O'Quinn.

When this had been done Judge Candler said: "Gentlemen, I see no reason why I should not declare a mistrial in this case. The truth of the entire matter hinges upon that locality. This is an outrageous thing and I do not see how I can keep from declaring a mistrial."

"The jury, I suppose, did not know what it was doing and intended no wrong, but such a thing as this is unheard of."

"I attach no blame to any one and if there is to be blame it must rest upon me, I suppose. The jury asked for permission to take exercise and I granted it without telling the officers not to go near the scene of the killing."

Notwithstanding all this, at the request of O'Quinn's attorneys, the jury was allowed to visit Steineau's place and inspect the premises. On their return the trial proceeded. At 11 o'clock the state announced closed, and then a consultation was held between the attorneys for both sides, and then one followed between all of the attorneys and Judge Candler.

Judge Candler, when this conference had ended, said to the jury that the attorneys had decided that as the points at issue were entirely of fact, had decided to submit it without argument. He then proceeded to deliver his charge which was brief and to the point.

The jury retired at exactly 11:17, and soon returned a verdict of not guilty.

Louis Steinman and Julius Simon, who were arrested at the same time O'Quinn was and charged with being accessories, were allowed to sign their own bonds in the sum of \$1,000 each.

## COUDOT WAS INNOCENT.

Chief Justice Declares Lynchers Made Horrible Mistake.

"An innocent man was hanged by lynchers at Williamsport," was the startling statement made at Grand Forks, N. D., by Chief Justice Corliss of the state supreme court. "I have documentary evidence to prove the statement," continued the judge. "The supreme court ordered a new trial in Coudot's case because it appeared that he was convicted on the uncorroborated evidence of Hollytrack and Ireland, both of whom confessed to taking part in the murder of the Spicer family, and whose statements were refuted by the strong alibi testimony given by Dr. Ross, the resident agency physician at Standing Rock."

## FIXING FREIGHT RATES.

Board of Control of Joint Traffic Association in Session at New York.

The board of control of the Joint Traffic Association was in session at New York Tuesday. Among the subjects discussed was that of passenger and freight rates east and west bound which have been in a chaotic condition for some time.

## TWO BIG CITIES INVOLVED.

Over Seven Million Acres of Land in Dispute in Minnesota.

An immense claim, embracing 7,000,000 acres of land in the northwest and including the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, was brought before Commissioner Harman of the general land office at Washington Tuesday and the assistance of the government in securing official data was called for.

The claimants are C. B. Holloway, of Holland, O., and A. U. Gunn, of Maumee, O. They are now making an examination of the general land office records with a view to securing copies of certified papers, which they assert will establish their title to the lands claimed by them.

## FLORIDA IN BRIEF.

A Bronson correspondent writes: "The convicts that are being worked by the Dutton Phosphate Company will likely be removed from this county on the 1st of next January and free labor will be substituted. The present lease will expire on that date." There are usually from 100 to 200 convicts at their camps.

The trial at Orlando of James Roberson who is charged with the burning of Dr. Kedney's residence, ended in a failure of the jury to agree. They were out for two or three hours, and stood three for conviction and three for acquittal. It has not been decided when the case will be retried.

It is now planned to make Jacksonville's Gala Week of annual occurrence, and to this end a permanent organization has been effected and officers elected. The success of the Gala Week just passed has demonstrated to the people of Jacksonville just what can be done in the way of entertainment, and the people are as one in saying that it should be perpetuated and made an annual thing, not only for the benefit of the city, but of the state as well.

The following special from New York will be of interest to Florida tobacco growers: "United States Appraiser Wakeman today completed the examination of an invoice of Havana tobacco which was offered at this port a few days ago, amounting to 477 bales. He raised the duty from 35 cents to \$1.50 per pound, making an increase of \$10,200. Besides this increase, he returned sixty-eight bales of wrapper tobacco, which had been fraudulently entered, to the collector for forfeiture."

The log cabin, which was displayed by the Georgia Southern and Florida railway during gala week at Jacksonville, has been shipped to Macon, Ga., where it will be remodeled and changed somewhat. It will then be taken through the west, for the purpose of advertising Florida. The band of darkey singers will, of course, go along with it. They will be attired in handsome suits advertising the railroad. The exhibit was one of the best things in Jacksonville, and will undoubtedly make a hit in the west.

The office of the Polk County Fair Association has been established in Lakeland and preliminary work is very rapidly assuming shape for a great success. The secretary is compiling a premium list and official programme which will be a book of fifty pages, with a circulation of about 15,000. The association will have, in connection with the fair, one of the finest bicycle tracks in the state. It is designed to be a permanent track, more for use at all times than during the fair season. It will be an enterprise separate from the fair proper, but a great addition to it.

News has just been received of a very sad accident which happened at cotton-ginning establishment of T. J. Summerall, who lives near Fallin Creek. While all the workmen were busy packing cotton in the press Mr. Summerall's little five-year-old boy, Tommie, managed in some way to get in the press unnoticed by anyone, and the little fellow was not missed until the cotton bale had been sewed up and thrown out on the ways ready for shipment. Search was made for the missing boy, and as he could not be seen, the men cut the bale of cotton open and found him, crushed beyond recognition.

A Washington special says: The following Florida postmasters were appointed Saturday: John Hutchinson, at Grandy; John S. Delaney, at Malory; James W. Cason, at Parish; Joseph H. Skipper, at Lakeland. So far as the presidential appointments are concerned, the statement may be made on authority that no more will be made in Florida before congress convenes. Judge Long had a conference with the president at which he was informed that this decision had been reached, as the president desires to obviate the necessity of the appointees having to execute two bonds. This decision applies not only to postmasters, but to all federal offices. Under the law a bond is required for a recess appointee before he can qualify, and another, or new bond, when he is confirmed by the senate.

The eighteenth quarterly report of J. H. Durkee as receiver of the Jacksonville, Tampa & Key West railway, which has been filed for record in the clerk's office of the United States court at Jacksonville gives the summary of the operations of the road during the quarter ending September, 30, 1897. The gross earnings of the line for the quarter were \$60,638.68; the operating expenses, \$64,847.73; other receipts, \$5,284.78, leaving a net amount of \$1,075.68 to be added to the balance of \$38,880.04, remaining from the last report, making a total of \$39,954.72. The disbursements other than operating expenses were \$12,552.74, leaving a balance, September, 30, 1897, of \$27,392.98. The excess of assets over liabilities were shown to be \$2,036.47.